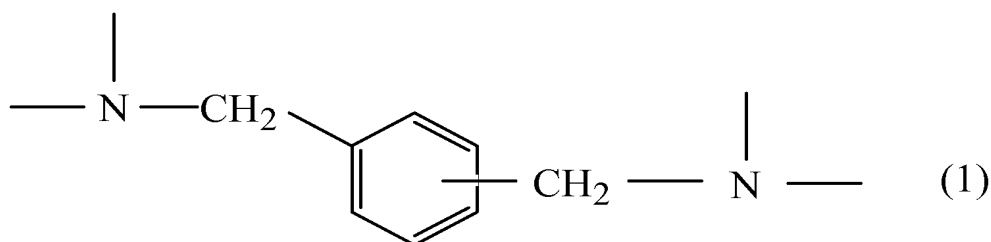


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A gas-barrier container comprising at least one gas-barrier layer made of an epoxy resin cured product that is formed by curing an epoxy resin composition consisting essentially of an epoxy resin and an epoxy resin-curing agent, and contains a skeletal structure represented by the formula (1):



in an amount of 45% by weight or higher, wherein the gas-barrier layer has an oxygen permeability of 2 mL·mm/m²·day·MPa or lower as measured at a temperature of 23°C and a relative humidity of 60%,

wherein the epoxy resin contains as a main component, the epoxy resin containing glycidylamine moieties derived from m-xylylenediamine and/or the epoxy resin containing glycidyl ether moieties derived from bisphenol F;

wherein the epoxy resin-curing agent is a reaction product of the following components (A) and (B) or a reaction product of the following components (A), (B) and (C):

(A) m-xylylenediamine or p-xylylenediamine;

(B) a polyfunctional compound having at least one acyl group which is capable of forming amido moieties and, as a result, an oligomer by the reaction with m-xylylenediamine or p-xylylenediamine; and

(C) a C₁ to C₈ monocarboxylic acid and/or a derivative thereof; and

wherein a blending ratio between the epoxy resin and the epoxy resin-curing agent in the epoxy resin composition contained in the gas-barrier layer is controlled such that an equivalent ratio of active hydrogen contained in the epoxy resin-curing agent to epoxy groups contained in the epoxy resin is in the range of 1.5 to 3.0

2.-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) The gas-barrier container according to claim 1[[4]], wherein the epoxy resin contains, as a main component, the epoxy resin containing glycidylamine moieties derived from m-xylylenediamine.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) The gas-barrier container according to claim 16, wherein the epoxy resin-curing agent is a reaction product of m-xylylenediamine with acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and/or a derivative thereof.

8. (Previously presented) The gas-barrier container according to claim 1, wherein the container is produced by forming a gas-barrier laminated film or sheet

containing at least one flexible polymer layer and at least one gas-barrier layer into a desired shape.

9. (Original) The gas-barrier container according to claim 8, wherein the flexible polymer layer is a layer made of at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefin-based resins, polyester-based resins, polyacrylonitrile-based resins, polystyrene-based resins and polyamide-based resins.

10. (Previously presented) The gas-barrier container according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the flexible polymer layers is a layer made of a heat-sealable polymer.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously presented) The gas-barrier container according to claim 8, wherein the epoxy resin-curing agent contained in the gas-barrier layer is a reaction product of the following components (A) and (B) or a reaction product of the following components (A), (B) and (C) from which a part or whole of the unreacted component (A) is removed after the reaction between (A) and (B) or between (A), (B) and (C):

(A) m-xylylenediamine or p-xylylenediamine;

(B) a polyfunctional compound having at least one acyl group which is capable of forming amido moieties and, as a result, an oligomer by the reaction with m-xylylenediamine or p-xylylenediamine; and

(C) a C₁ to C₈ monocarboxylic acid and/or a derivative thereof.

13. (Previously presented) The gas-barrier container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the form of a hollow container in which 60 to 100% of a surface area of at least one of an outer surface and an inner surface thereof is coated with the gas-barrier layer.

14. (Original) The gas-barrier container according to claim 13, wherein the hollow container is formed from a layer made of at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefin-based resins, polyester-based resins, polyacrylonitrile-based resins, polystyrene-based resins and polyamide-based resins.

15.-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously presented) The gas-barrier container according to claim 1, wherein said skeletal structure represented by the formula (1) is contained in the container in an amount of 50% by weight or higher.

22. (Cancelled).